

Issue 21: INSIDER'S EDGE: Meet Marcel

Howdy, Insiders. I've got a friend I'd like you to meet—my good buddy, Marcel! Marcel moved to the United States several years ago. After hearing about Maryland Health Connection on TV, he's decided to apply for health coverage.



I'm not so sure about Marcel's choice of sunglasses, but his decision to get health care coverage is definitely a sign of good taste in my book!

What happens when Marcel applies for health coverage in Maryland Health Connection?

Marcel reports that he makes \$13,100 (slightly less than 116% FPL) annually and is unmarried with no dependents. He reports that he is a naturalized citizen who has been in the country for six years and is a Maryland resident. However, the federal hub's databases cannot verify his status. Because Marcel meets all other the eligibility requirements for Medicaid, he is given 90 days of temporary eligibility in order to provide proof of citizenship.

Maryland Health Connection doesn't dole out temporary eligibility to anyone. Remember, to receive the 90 days of temporary coverage, Marcel must otherwise qualify for coverage and have no other outstanding verifications AND he must attest that he is a qualified alien or a citizen on his application, which he signs **under penalty of perjury**.

Marcel is excited to have 90 days of temporary eligibility. How does he submit his outstanding verifications?

Marcel may mail or fax in a copy of proof to the Consolidated Services Center or turn in a copy in-person to a local health department, department of social services, or connector entity. If he does so and the proof is deemed acceptable, Marcel will be given full coverage. After a year, he will have to renew his coverage.

What if Marcel forgets to submit his documentation or it isn't accepted?

If Marcel does not return proof within 90 days or his documentation is deemed unacceptable, he will be ineligible for Medicaid.

Marcel will only receive temporary eligibility once per lifetime. If he tries to reapply and the databases cannot confirm his citizenship, but he meets all other Medicaid eligibility criteria, he will not receive Medicaid coverage, temporary or otherwise, until he provides proof of his citizenship.

See, that was pretty easy, right? That's all for this time, Insiders!

Questions? Send'em my way to dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.